## Second deputy back in Bay Point

By Paul Burgarino East County Times

Posted: 03/04/2009 05:33:34 PM PST

Bay Point will once again have two full-time sheriff's deputies.

Earlier this week, the Contra Costa County board of supervisors approved a funding change allowing the use of about \$262,000 in P-6 zone funds to pay for a second resident deputy in the community of about 23,000 for the next 17 months. Deputy Mike Tegeler starts Monday, the Sheriff's Office said.

Bay Point's two deputies had been funded by the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund. However, there was only enough to pay for a single deputy because of rising salaries and benefits and revenue loss from the landfill, said Supervisor Federal Glover, whose district includes Bay Point.

"Public safety is important throughout all of our unincorporated areas; we want to put as many officers on the street as we can," he said.

After Bay Point lost one resident deputy last July, the community's Municipal Advisory Council clamored for more officers, Glover said.

Resident Norma Siegfried, a former MAC member, said Bay Point generally has not had the policing resources it needs, though bringing back the second full-time officer will help and is an appropriate use of P-6 funds. In particular, she said a second deputy is "important to help keep a lid" on increasing problems with juveniles and gang problems in schools.

"We're just thrilled. It should help ensure the safety and quality of life," said MAC Chairwoman Vicki Zumwalt, noting how public safety has been cut from the county budget.

P-6 zone funds are taxes that go toward police protection services in unincorporated areas of the county. The funds come from special property taxes in different zones, and they can only be used in those areas.

In previous interpretations, P-6 money could be used only in the zone where it originated. In a new interpretation, it was determined that money from all the Bay Point zones could be collected and used to pay salary and benefits for a deputy, Glover said.

The current projection of P-6 revenues for Bay Point's 10 zones is \$147,181 for this fiscal year. The balance would come from the accumulated Bay Point P-6 zone funds, Glover said

Glover said the possibility of using funds for policing tools such as cameras was considered, but having a physical presence helps the community policing concept.

Bay Point is also served by 18 roving deputies. Two beat deputies are on duty at all times, and the two resident deputies work 40 hours a week, said sheriff's Lt. Jim Mahoney. A school resource officer also serves the area. Reach Paul Burgarino at 925-779-7164 or <a href="mailto:pburgarino@bayareanewsgroup.com">pburgarino@bayareanewsgroup.com</a>.